



# Marshal Matters

## January 2020 Edition



Marshal's Minute.....	2	Fallen Firefighter Memorial Donation.....	15
Employee Spotlight.....	3	IFPD Trustee Training.....	16
Small Equipment Grant.....	4	Coffee with the Fire Chief.....	17
Fire Prevention/Life Safety Award.....	5	CO Safety.....	18
CRR Week Preview.....	6	Space Heater Safety.....	19
5 "E's" of CRR.....	7-11	OSFM Making A Difference.....	20
"Be Alarmed!" 2019 Stats.....	12-13	Kid's Corner.....	21
"Be Alarmed!" 2018-19 Report.....	14		

## Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is a data-driven process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources (emergency response and prevention) to reduce their occurrence and impact.

CRR Week is from January 20<sup>th</sup> through January 26<sup>th</sup>. The goal of CRR Week is to raise awareness among the fire service that implementing CRR concepts will make communities and department safer. The idea of CRR week originated with individuals from various fire departments across the country. The focus of the week was on the five “E’s” of CRR; Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Economic Incentive and Emergency Response. Any fire department or community, big or small, rural or metro, paid or volunteer can use CRR concepts to identify risks in their communities and start to plan

how to reduce those risks.

According to [crrweek.org](http://crrweek.org), every 24 seconds, a fire department in the United States responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. One structure fire in the U.S. occurs every 63 seconds and one home fire occurs every 88 seconds. The fire service continues to see an increase in medical calls, surpassing 80% of total call volume in some jurisdictions.

OSFM has helped established a task force in Illinois to identify risks and ways to help the fire service mitigate impacts on personnel and residents in their communities. OSFM encourages local departments to utilize the concepts of CRR and identify the needs and challenges that face their communities. A \$50,000 grant to help support local efforts has been established for developing and implementing CRR through the OSFM.

“This all began back in 2018 when Illinois was identified as a state that was already progressing in the area of CRR and decided to begin working with the state as another type of model,” according to Marsha Giesler from Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. “Illinois has 14 state fire organizations, each bringing various missions, resources and concerns to the table. It became apparent that, in Illinois, we would need to figure out how to harness and maximize all this work to best benefit CRR efforts (reducing redundancy and capitalizing on strengths), assist departments, serve as a resource, and educate the fire service on the basics and best practices of CRR.”

The task force and evolving Illinois model is still less than a year old. In December of 2019, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association was selected to spearhead and help steer the work on the state model. The vision for the future, at this point, begins with reaching out to state organizations to learn their concerns, needs and outreach abilities. Education will be the key to increasing knowledge of the CRR process and imbedding it as a way of doing business and reducing community risks for all departments. Making resources available, easy to access and user friendly will help make CRR a success in Illinois. More about CRR can be found at:

[www.crrweek.org](http://www.crrweek.org)



**Employee Spotlight- DoIT**

# Glenn Jones

## Department of Innovation & Technology

**Tell us about your family?** I married my wife Jennifer in 1992. We have 2 boys, the oldest graduated from SIU and he works at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, the youngest is a senior at Truman State University.

**Favorite food(s)?** Mexican; Tacos and Fajitas.

**Hobbies?** Camping, deer hunting, just being outdoors.

**What's your favorite movie or book?** Spaceballs!

**When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers?** Sirius Classic Rewind.

**What did you want to be when you were a kid?** Astronaut, until I had to get glasses then I was bummed.

**What's your favorite part of the job?** My favorite part is being a part of this team. After working for a few different agencies over my career, I found this to be a nice work environment. Everyone welcomed me here and the level of professionalism I have seen is something everyone here should be proud of.

**What's something unique about you?** I am a professional stagehand for the International Alliance of Stage and Theatrical Employees. I have helped set up and run hundreds of plays, concerts, and other theatrical performances.

**Where is your favorite place to vacation?** I love the simple vacations. Give me a week camping and floating down the Merrimac River and I find peace.

**Where is your bucket list destination?** To follow the St Louis Cardinals one season and see an away game at every stadium they play.

## Small Equipment Grant



*Applications for the Small Equipment Grant program are now being accepted. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 29, 2020. \$3.5 million is available for this application cycle.*

*Most Illinois fire departments, fire protection districts and township fire departments are eligible to apply for grants. Additionally, ambulance services that are a not-for-profit emergency medical service provider are also eligible to apply. An ambulance service shall be a volunteer, non-profit emergency medical service provider not tied in any financial or legal manner to a fire department. Applications in this category may have to provide additional documentation in order to verify eligibility.*

*Fire departments that are for-profit entities, not-for-profit entities, associations and/or not-for-profit corporations (i.e not a government body) and units of local government that do not operate a fire department (i.e a municipality that contracts for fire suppression services from another municipality or fire district) are not eligible to apply.*

*Fire departments, fire protection districts and township fire department applications must have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System ("NFIRS") for a minimum of two years prior to the application for the Small Equipment Grant, except that fire departments that were issued a Fire Department Identification Number ("FDID") by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal ("OSFM") less than two years prior to the application are eligible to apply for a Small Equipment Grant if they have participated in NFIRS since the date their FDID was issued by the OSFM. PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU ARE NOT NFIRS COMPLIANT BY THE END OF THE APPLICATION PERIOD, YOU WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT. A listing of departments currently compliant can be viewed [here](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Iam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx):*

*<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/SFMDocuments/Documents/NFIRSComplianceReport.pdf>*

*Application and other information about the Small Equipment Grant can be found [here](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Iam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx):*

*<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Iam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx>*

## Fire Prevention & Life Safety Award

*OSFM is accepting nominations for its Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award. This award recognizes an individual's extraordinary efforts to further fire prevention and life safety throughout Illinois. The nomination form can be found here:*  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/SFMDocuments/Documents/NominationForm.pdf#search=Life%20Safety%20Award>

*Nominations are due by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020*

### Nomination Form



#### Fire Prevention & Life Safety Award

This award is in recognition of the extraordinary efforts performed by individuals in furtherance of fire prevention and life safety.

#### Nominee Information:

Eligible Recipient categories (please check one):

Fire Department/Fire Protection District/Township Fire Department	<input type="checkbox"/>
OSFM Personnel - Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>
OSFM Personnel - Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of Person(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Years of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Please give a brief summary of how this person/department has shown extraordinary efforts in the furtherance of fire prevention and life safety. (i.e. redeeming character, act of kindness, circumstance becoming, particular incident, etc.)

#### Nominated by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

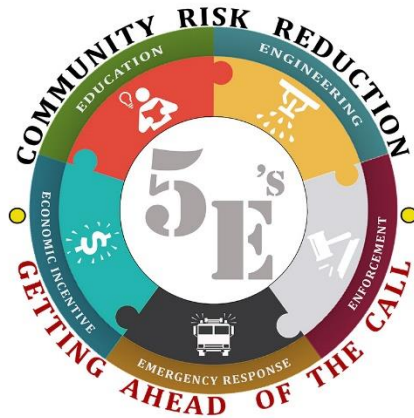
Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this form to:  
 Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal  
 Attn: Robin Sudduth 1035 Stevenson  
 Drive Springfield, Illinois 62703

Please provide the address, phone number and e-mail for the person(s) or department being nominated so that we may notify them if they are selected for the award:



## CRR Week 2020



# CRR WEEK 2020



WHEREAS, every 24 seconds a fire department in the United States responds to a fire somewhere in the nation, a fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 63 seconds, and a home fire occurs every 88 seconds; and,

WHEREAS, 77 percent of all fire deaths occurred in the home in 2017; and,

WHEREAS, home fires were responsible for 10,600 civilian injuries and 72 percent of all civilian injuries in 2017; and,

WHEREAS, an estimated \$23 billion in property damage occurred as a result of fire in 2017; and,

WHEREAS, more than 58,000 wildfires burned nearly nine million acres and destroyed 25,000 structures in 2018; and,

WHEREAS, the fire service responds to a growing number of medical calls for service, surpassing 80 percent of total call volume in some jurisdictions; and,

WHEREAS, the fire service strives to reduce the impact of unexpected man-made and natural disasters, including fires, emergency medical calls, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, and other hazardous events that have the potential to cause loss of life and damage to property, community infrastructure, and the environment; and,

WHEREAS, the fire service plays an integral role in community preparedness, as the President of the United States declared 118 major disasters in 2017 and 2018, which resulted in more than 3,500 deaths, countless injured, and over \$400 billion in property damage; and,

WHEREAS, Community Risk Reduction is a data-informed process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact; and,

WHEREAS, the value of community support from local, state, and national partners to address community risks is recognized to meet the demands on paid, combination, and volunteer members of the fire service; and,

WHEREAS, the goal of Community Risk Reduction is to reduce the occurrence and impact of emergency events for both community members and emergency responders through deliberate action in the areas of the five E's of Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency response, and Economic incentive; and,

WHEREAS, most fire-related and many medical calls for service are preventable, with the five E's performed as part of an integrated Community Risk Reduction program;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim the week of January 20, 2020 be designated as **Community Risk Reduction Week**, a grassroots initiative of fire service professionals across the nation and Illinois to raise awareness of the importance of CRR in the fire service community and an opportunity to make communities safer.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Dee Dee Walker*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,  
this TWENTY-SECOND day of JANUARY, in  
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and  
TWENTY, and of the State of Illinois,  
two hundred and SECOND.*

*JB Pritzker*  
GOVERNOR

*OSFM honored CRR Week 2020 by focusing on the 5 “E’s” of CRR; Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency Response and Economic Incentive. Governor Pritzker proclaimed January 20<sup>th</sup> through January 26<sup>th</sup> as CRR Week in Illinois.*

*Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is a data driven, grass roots effort to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources (emergency response and prevention) to reduce their occurrence and impact.*

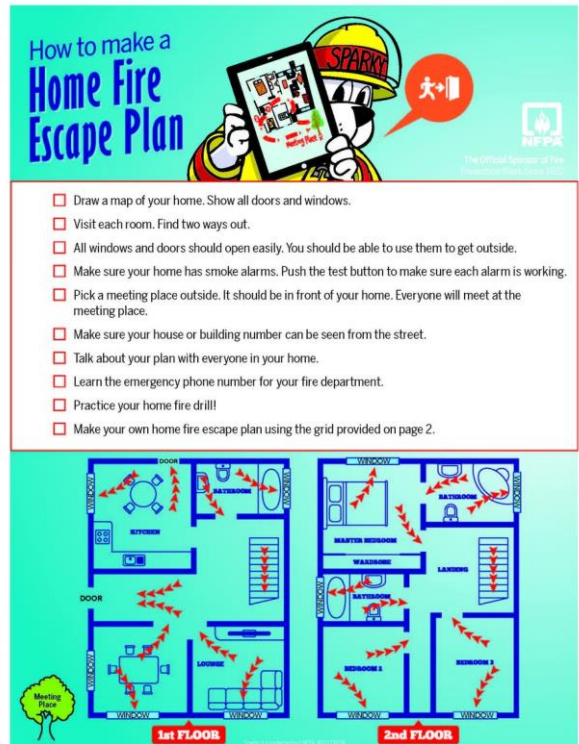
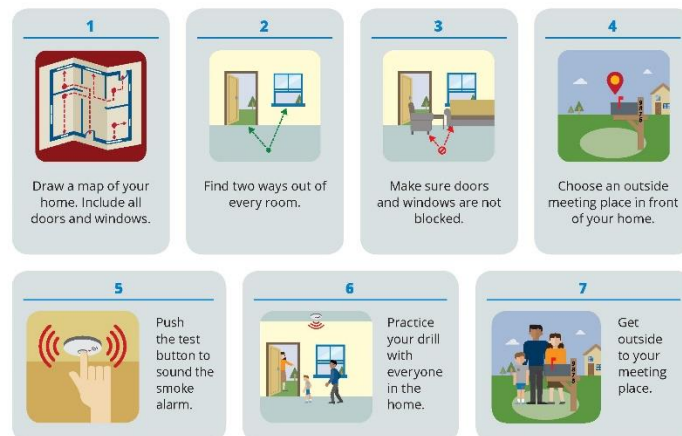
*OSFM has helped establish a task force in Illinois and has provided a \$50,000 grant to help support local efforts and for the development and implementation of CRR throughout Illinois.*

## CRR Week: Education



How fast does fire move? Very fast. You could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

### 7 steps to practicing your escape plan



For more information about escape planning, visit:  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) and [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).



*Educating the public about fire safety shouldn't just be focused on during special weeks. Creating a fire safe community is important to helping residents understand the dangers and helping them to come up with a plan. OSFM encourages all Illinoisans to review their fire plans and hold frequent drills to insure they are ready in the event of a fire or emergency.*

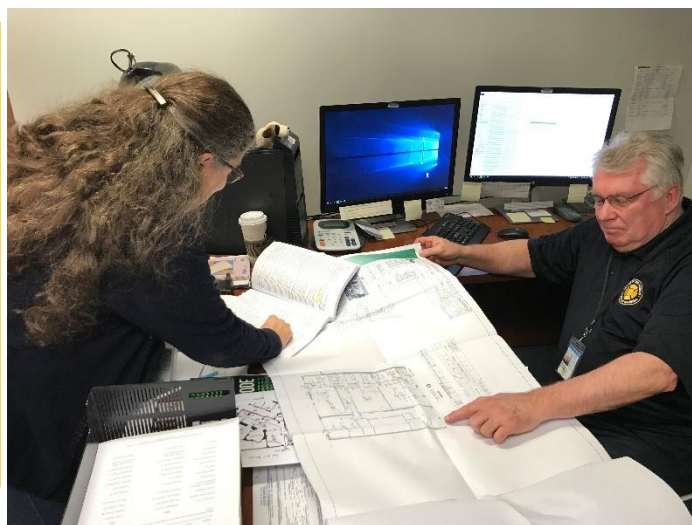


## CRR Week: Engineering



*OSFM's Technical Services Section Chief Cathy Stashak talked about building plan reviews and other technical help which tech services provides at OSFM. These reviews can help business owners, school officials and other folks ensure safety when designing new buildings or remodeling them and making sure codes are followed.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=piqm1ZaTWU&t=2s>



*Chicago Fire Commissioner Richard C. Ford II talks about how important preplanning is and the successful efforts made to reduce fire deaths in the City of Chicago by 50% last year! A new state of the art program at the Chicago Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau is utilizing virtual reality to teach fire safety to kids and seniors across the city.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HffesH0bu1w>



**CRR Week: Enforcement**

*OSFM's Fire Prevention Division inspectors work hard across the state to make sure places are abiding by the life safety and fire codes to ensure the public is safe.*

*OSFM has adopted the 2015 Edition of NFPA Life Safety Code. There are four classes for Fire Department AHJ's to learn about the update:*

*February, 13<sup>th</sup> Mundelein*

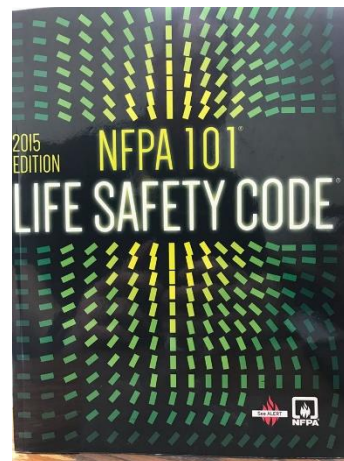
*March 10<sup>th</sup> Galesburg*

*March 13<sup>th</sup> Morris*

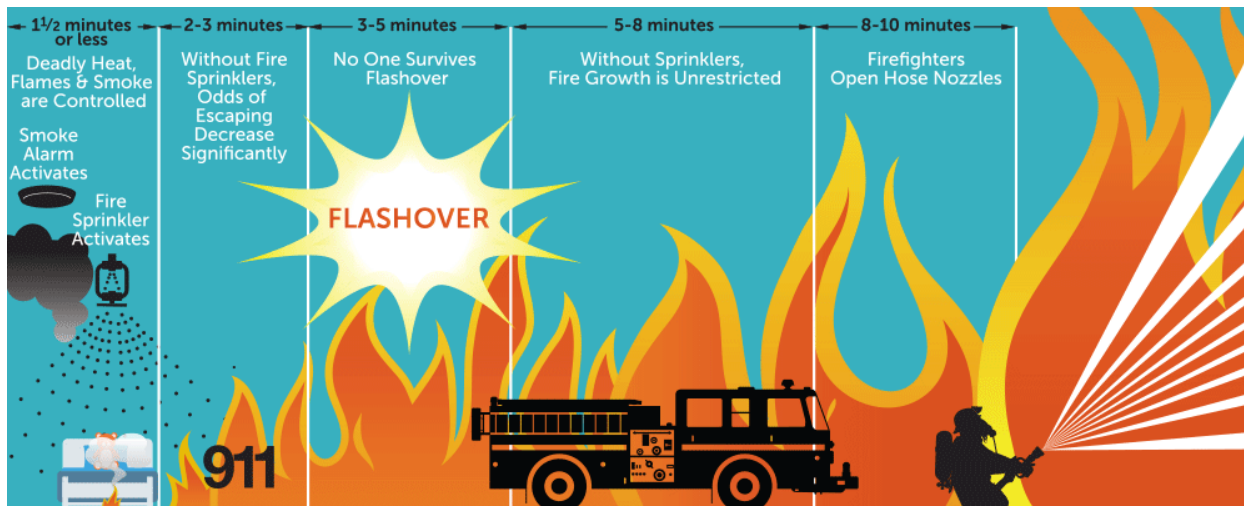
*March 14<sup>th</sup> Effingham*

*To register or for more information about the Life Safety Code Update visit:*

*[https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Resources/Pages/Life-Safety-Code.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2EpFAoiDNOL3DTDHQsJWrCS4cmmnuMphe1cvxakPh0RDdL\\_GGW-CM-Ra8](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Resources/Pages/Life-Safety-Code.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2EpFAoiDNOL3DTDHQsJWrCS4cmmnuMphe1cvxakPh0RDdL_GGW-CM-Ra8)*



## CRR Week: Economic Incentive



*In Illinois, 114 towns/districts have NFPA 13D single-family home residential sprinkler ordinances in place. Home fire sprinklers allow more time for people to escape and slows the spread of fire as today's construction materials allow fire to spread quicker.*

*Insurance companies offer incentives for residential sprinkler systems which can reduce premiums as much as 5% to 15%. Fire sprinklers are like having your own private fire department on call in your home 24 hours a day seven days a week!*

*More information about fire sprinklers can be found here:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PET3A\\_u7P\\_s&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2u\\_7fmVtFYIqKJtkuLUoKTGnob5QlZd8ODR5mrQmiYfdOqKfr6X3O-0Tc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PET3A_u7P_s&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2u_7fmVtFYIqKJtkuLUoKTGnob5QlZd8ODR5mrQmiYfdOqKfr6X3O-0Tc)





## CRR Week: Emergency Response



*Do your residents know what fire department or district they live in? Get to know your residents or if you are not on a fire department, get to know which department or district serves your area! Making sure homes are clearly marked and easily identifiable will help to reduce response times and could save a life. Departments and districts are encouraged to conduct fire outreach and education on regular basis.*



### Illinois Fire Department Top 6 Reasons for Response in 2018

- #1 EMS
- #2 False Calls
- #3 Service Calls
- #4 Good Intent Calls
- #5 Hazardous Conditions Calls
- #6 Fires

**"Be Alarmed!" 2019 Stats**

# 2019 REPORT

Launched in 2018, "Be Alarmed!" was created as a fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program administered cooperatively between the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The program continues to distribute fire safety education materials and 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms to fire departments in the state of Illinois. The fire departments then deliver the education and install smoke alarms in at-risk homes within their communities. Both the educational materials and smoke alarms are provided to fire departments at no cost as a result of funding from both the IFSA and OSFM.



The program was developed to educate Illinois residents on the dangers of residential fires and how to prevent fires from occurring in the home, as well as to ensure there are properly installed, working smoke alarms in the homes. By providing 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms, it ensures that the power source cannot be removed from the unit and, if properly maintained, will last the life of the device.

The program seeks to educate Illinois residents, young and old, on home fire safety and prevention methods, reduce the number of fire-related injuries in Illinois, reduce the number of fire-related deaths in Illinois, and identify the reason for non-working smoke alarms in Illinois homes.

#### 2019 Recorded Data:

- ♦ 94 active Illinois fire departments from 42 different counties participating in the program
- ♦ 6,291 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- ♦ \$138,339 worth of life-saving smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- ♦ 4,948 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms installed in Illinois homes
- ♦ 1,638 Illinois homes now protected with new smoke alarms
- ♦ 3,732 (2,012 high-risk) Illinois residents educated on smoke alarm maintenance, home fire safety, and home fire escape plans as well as protected by new smoke alarms
- ♦ 89% of pre-existing smoke alarms in homes that received new 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms were non-functional or were expired (2,592 of 2,909 pre-existing alarms)





## **“Be Alarmed!” Testimonials**

### Fire Department Testimonials

*“It has drastically helped our district because we are a poor rural district with the majority of our district low income. This has been a huge benefit to them and the elderly as well. The firefighters being the ones that put them up, we can guarantee, the smoke alarms are being put in the correct location and they have enough coverage for their home. The majority of people we have helped didn't have their existing alarms in the right location nor did they have enough coverage. This increased coverage, and correct locations will save lives! In total for our district, we have installed close to 200 fire alarms with the majority coming through this program. I have been Fire Chief for the last five years and that was one of my main goals was to get the community safer than it was when I started. Thanks to the 'Be Alarmed' Program we have been able to do just that. I would highly recommend the program to every fire department in the State of Illinois! This program leads to safer communities, less fire related deaths, the knowledge of the importance of escape plans.*

*“A department our size would never be able to afford the amount of detectors that your program has furnished for installation. We have installed 792 detectors in 157 homes. This has allowed us to get into these homes to help with fire escape planning, and fire safety in the home. We have been able to talk to young and old about what to do during a fire, and what to expect when we get there. We have been able to hand out the literature that you have provided to each home. This has been a valuable tool in our residential fire prevention efforts. We still have a list of installs, and calls coming in.”*

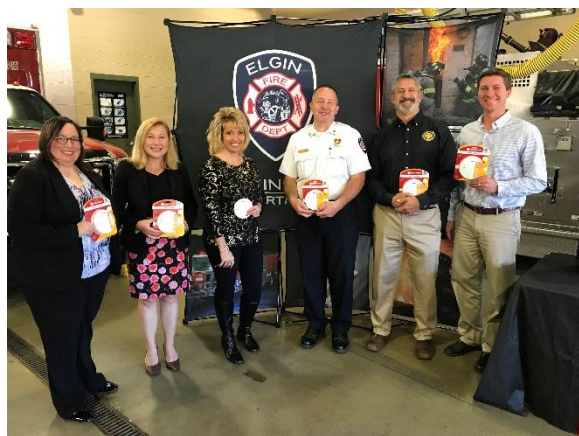
*“We were shocked by how many homes did not have even one working smoke detector when we arrived. Additionally, this opened the door to a conversation about fire safety, fire prevention, and even the services we provide to the community. I look forward to a continued partnership with your program. We have installed almost 100 alarms and I will not be satisfied until we have at least one of your alarms in every home in our community.”*

*“I want to thank you for providing this program for our fire district. We have installed over 200 detectors in our rural fire district and are hoping that this program will continue in 2020. We have been thanked repeatedly by the residents of our fire district for this program. It is reassuring to know that we are helping some of our fire district residents and that if there was a fire, they have working smoke detectors.”*

*“Thank you for the opportunity to be a partner in the 'Be Alarmed' program. Response from the citizens we serve has been positive - both from contact on the village's website, and word of mouth. We are definitely finding this program to be very beneficial, especially with our elderly population, who find it difficult to maintain adequate, up-to-date fire protection in their dwellings. People are pleasantly surprised that there is no cost for the detectors, and eagerly invite the members of our department into their homes, where a positive interaction takes place. A win-win for everyone!”*



## “BE Alarmed!” 2018-2019 Data



*“Be Alarmed!” was created and launched in 2018 and has provided life saving fire prevention education and smoke alarms to thousands of Illinoisans. The program between the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) seeks to educate Illinois residents, young and old, on home fire safety and prevention methods, reduce the number of fire-related injuries in Illinois, reduce the number of fire-related deaths in Illinois and identify the reason for non-working smoke alarms in Illinois.*

*Here are the successes of the program since its inception in 2018:*

- 154 Illinois Fire Departments from 42 different counties participating in the program*
- 10,946 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments*
- \$240,702 worth of life-saving smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments*
- 7,893 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms installed in Illinois homes*
- 2,618 Illinois homes now protected with new smoke alarms*
- 6,113 (3,111 high-risk) Illinois residents educated on smoke alarm maintenance, home fire safety, and home fire escape plans as well as protected by new smoke alarms*
- 86% of pre-existing smoke alarms in homes that received new 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms were non-functional or were expired (4,073 of 4,757 pre-existing smoke alarms)*

*More about the program can be found here:*  
<https://www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms>



## Fallen Firefighter Memorial Donation



*OSFM's Fire Service Outreach Coordinator Greg Hay accepted a check for \$1300 on behalf of the Illinois Fallen Firefighter Foundation from Diane and Larry Hughes of Hall's Harley-Davidson in Springfield. The money was raised from their annual "Ride to Remember 9/11" parade held in September. Checks were also presented to the Illinois State Police Officers Memorial Committee and the Salvation Army.*

## Illinois Fire Protection Districts' Trustee Training



*OSFM's Fire Service Outreach Coordinator Greg Hay provided an agency update at the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts' Essential Trustee Training session in Oswego.*

*The agency update included information about the update to NFPA 2015 edition of the Life Safety Code, Recertification efforts and plans, the "Be Alarmed!" program and FY 20 budget highlights. A few of the budget highlights included the Small Equipment Grant, funding for IFSI, Cancer Awareness Training and Gross Decon Buckets, firefighter mental health and suicide awareness training and Community Risk Reduction (CRR) planning.*





## Coffee with the Fire Chief



Fire Marshal Perez traveled to Rockford for the January edition of Coffee with the Fire Chief. Rockford Fire Chief Derek Bergsten talked about Rockford's Community Paramedic Program's success and future expansion. Chief Bergsten also talked about the great men and women serving the Rockford community, along with where he sees the department headed in the future.

To view the latest episode visit:  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/News/Pages/Coffee-with-the-Chief.aspx>

If you would like to have your department featured, contact Fire Marshal Perez at [Matt.Perez@illinois.gov](mailto:Matt.Perez@illinois.gov) or OSFM's PIO JC Fultz at [jc.fultz@illinois.gov](mailto:jc.fultz@illinois.gov)



## Carbon Monoxide Safety

# Carbon Monoxide Safety



Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

### HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT



Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.

### FACTS

- ! A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- ! In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education) ©NFPA 2017



## Electric Portable Space Heater Safety



When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

### HEATER CHECKLIST

- » Purchase a heater with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- » Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including people.
- » Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- » Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- » Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- » Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- » Keep children away from the space heater.
- » Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- » Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

### Types of electric space heaters

**Oil or water-filled radiator**  
Heated oil or water travels through the heater.

**Fan-forced heater**  
A fan blows warm air over metal coils.

**Ceramic heater**  
Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.

**Infrared heaters**  
Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

### Fact

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.



Name of Organization Goes Here

Contact Information Goes Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information  
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

## OSFM Making A Difference

*Our two newest Storage Tank Safety Specialists, Charlene Troyer and Brian Morin, started on Jan 2, 2020. Charlene and Brian both have years of experience in the private industry. Charlene recently served as an Environmental Specialist for Circle K Convenience Stores coordinating all aspects of compliance concerning the Underground Storage Tank (UST) systems at 400 facilities in three states. Brian served as a Vice President at Eagle Environmental Consultants and Grand Slam Construction where he was the project lead for all UST removal and abandon in place projects. Welcome on-board!!*

*Jim Bentley Petroleum & Chemical Safety Division Manager*

*Kudos to Jeanne Maki!!*

*Jeanne Maki conducted an inspection today at the Metropolitan Prep Schools in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Prior to completion of the inspection Jeanne went to her car to retrieve computer equipment in order to complete the inspection. While returning from her car, Maki noticed a strong smell of gas coming from the side of one of the education buildings. She alerted the building official, he investigated and smelled the gas. The building official immediately contacted Nicor gas company about the smell. Nicor was quickly dispatched to the school and was able to locate and confirm the gas leakage. The leakage was located on the meter side of school building C.*

*Because of Ms. Maki's awareness and quick thinking, she was able to prevent any potential danger to the lives of the children and staff. It's assumable that Ms. Maki's actions today could have deterred many children and staff members from succumbing to the horrific effect from this leakage.*

*Please help me congratulate Ms. Maki on a job well done. Her awareness, persistence, quick action and experience is a true depiction of the importance of safety in her job as a Fire Prevention Inspector.*

*Great Job Jeanne!*

# GO TEAM!

Cheryle Kaufman – Legal  
FOIA

THANKS; I hope you  
don't retire for a long  
time!

Kind Regards,  
Sharon LoMastro





## Kid's Corner

